

SB 1523 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Carrier:** Rep. Elmer**House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services****Action Date:** 02/26/24**Action:** Do Pass.**Vote:** 9-0-1-0**Yeas:** 9 - Andersen, Cramer, Elmer, Hartman, Hieb, Nelson, Neron, Nguyen H, Reynolds**Exc:** 1 - Scharf**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Prepared By:** Matthew Perreault, LPRO Analyst**Meeting Dates:** 2/21, 2/26**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure allows an adopted person age 21 or older to request to change or add a biological parent's name on their original birth record by filling out an application to the Center of Health Statistics as an alternative to obtaining a court order.

Detailed Summary

- Allows a person age 21 or older, whose birth record was sealed in relation to an adoption, to request to change or add a biological parent's name on their original birth record by applying to the Center of Health Statistics as an alternative to obtaining a court order.
- Applies to all original birth records opened before, on, or after effective date.
- Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of the measure
- Discussion on the measure in the Senate committee
- Personal experiences of committee members

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The State Registrar of the Center for Health Statistics is responsible for maintaining the state's system of vital statistics, including birth records for all persons born in Oregon. While original birth records are secure documents and are generally sealed, Oregon law allows the State Registrar to amend or replace birth records when it receives an adoption report, to establish the parentage or biological paternity of a person, and when changing a person's gender or name ([ORS 432.245](#)). These may only be opened under a court order or a request from a voluntary adoption registry-operating agency ([ORS 432.250](#)). The law also allows adoptees age 21 and older to apply to the Center for Health Statistics for a copy or their original, unamended birth record without requiring a court order ([ORS 432.228](#)). In 2023, the legislature enacted [Senate Bill 573](#), which allows a person to request to add their biological parent's name to their birth record when parentage is determined by DNA testing. The law requires a signed affidavit from both the applicant and their parent, or the parent's representative, in addition to DNA evidence establishing biological parentage, and also requires the birth record to have been opened under a court order or request from an adoption agency.